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Destruction of sculptures, tablets, public buildings and such monuments has increased in proportion to the growth of communications. Since the opening of the railway to Nankou irreparable damage has been done to the monoliths at the Ming Tombs and six of these are virtually ruined. A temple in Peking has been closed to foreigners and the closing of the Temple of Heaven has been threatened on account of vandalism. Depredations have taken place at two other capitals, Mukden and Sian-fu. At Nanking visitors are actively destroying the sculptures at the Ming Tombs by pounding them with stones and cutting names in them. Chinan-fu, K'ai-feng-fu and Honan-fu are now reached by rail and the antiquities there are likewise henceforth exposed to the depredations of visitors. Numerous other instances of mutilation are reported at Tsi-ning-chou in Shantung, in the Western Hills near Peking, and active destruction is going on at Hang-chow, and other places.

In view of these facts and of the responsibility of all concerned the co-operation of foreign officials in China, of scholars and all other interested persons is desirable in order to create a respect for Chinese antiquities, monuments, etc., and promote an interest in their preservation. China is undefended against the iniquities of vandalism and is the only important nation remaining to discover the need of protection and care of public monuments.

Mr. Frederick McCormick, correspondent of the Associated Press at Peking, who is secretary of the committee, writes that already much has been done. Throughout China warning posters have been put up in public places, and in several localities the Chinese officials have taken the matter up. Furthermore, it having been brought to the attention of the Navy Department that the offenders in some instances were American sailors, an official inquiry is being made and steps taken to prevent such action in this quarter henceforth. Among the supporters of the movement are the British, Russian, French, and Spanish ministers at Peking, and many prominent Americans, both resident and non-resident.

"THE BETTER CITY" Under the title "The Better City" the Metropolitan Improvement League of Boston has issued a bulletin which gives a brief résumé of its activities and constitutes an appeal for further support. This League was organized five years ago and is the parent, as it were, of the Metropolitan Improvement Commission. It has, among other things, induced the Boston Elevated Railway Company to adopt a higher standard of art in the designing of new structural work, superintended the selection and location of statues and other sculpture in public parks, advocated the planting of trees on the islands in the harbor, secured an appropriation for the improvement of Copley Square, and vigilantly held in check public outdoor advertising.

THREE In Gloucester, Mass., Ft. PROGRESSIVE Worth, Tex., and Los TOWNS Angeles, Cal., concerted effort is being made to secure permanent art galleries. A committee has the work in charge in Gloucester—the same committee under whose direction the great pageant, in which two thousand Gloucester folk took part, was given last August. The pageant was, in fact, to raise a fund for this specific purpose. In Ft. Worth the project is being fostered by the Public Library. Los Angeles is of all the most ambitious, including in its scheme not one building but a group. A little booklet describing what is wanted and projected, has just been issued as a Message from the Fine Arts League of this city, the object of which is "to found and maintain for the public good an institution which shall be primarily a home of the Fine Arts, including music and poetry."

"THE ARTS AND CRAFTS" The Annual Conference of the National League of Handicraft Societies was held in Baltimore on October 22d and 23d. Professor Warren, the president, made the opening address. The secretary's report gave details in regard to the

use of traveling exhibitions and libraries, the status of the branch societies, and urged that some action be taken to discourage the use of the name "Arts and Crafts" by organizations having no interest in the handicraft revival, and by others for commercial purposes. On the evening of the 22d Prof. Arthur Wesley Dow gave an interesting and suggestive address on "Handwork as Fine Art," and on the following afternoon Mr. Lockwood de Forest addressed the League on the subject of "Industrial Education." The following officers were elected for the ensuing year; President, H. Langford Warren of Boston; Vice-Presidents, Miss Elizabeth Langley of Chicago, Mr. Huger Elliott of Providence; Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. F. Allen Whiting of Boston. Executive Committee, with the officers, Miss Elizabeth Pitfield, Philadelphia; Mr. Lockwood de Forest, New York, and Miss A. C. Putnam, Deerfield. The next conference will be held in Chicago.

STATE ART COMMISSION Illinois has taken rank among the States by creating by legislative enactment an art commission to pass upon all its public works of art and thus safeguard it from subsequent blunders. This commission, authorized on June 4th, has recently been appointed. It consists of Jean Jensen of Chicago, landscape architect; Lorado Taft and Carl Beil, sculptors; Ralph Clarkson, President of the Municipal Art League of Chicago, and Frederick Clay Bartlett, painters; W. Carlys Zimmerman and William Holiberd, architects; and Edward J. Parker, President of the Park and Boulevard Association of Quincy, Ill. The term of office is four years and all the commissioners serve without compensation.

LOS ANGELES' CITY PLAN Los Angeles is also waking up to the need of improvement along the lines of civic art, and its municipal Art Society has secured a tentative plan from Mr. Charles Mulford Robinson, which it now publishes in handsome pamphlet

form. Mr. Robinson has not undertaken to make over the city but has confined himself to suggestions in regard to bettering present conditions without radical change. Beginning with the small things, such as lamp-posts and street parking, he leads up to the larger ones, urging, finally, the establishment of a civic center and of a series of connecting parkways. Fifty million dollars will be required for the contemplated improvements.

THE AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF ARCHITECTS' CONVENTION Among the speakers at the annual convention of the American Institute of Architects, which will assemble in Washington, December 14th-16th, will be Mr. M. V. Richards, of the Southern Railroad, who will give an address on "The Relation of Railways to the Conservation of Natural Resources"; Mr. J. V. Davies and Colonel Wells, of the Hudson and Manhattan Railway Company, and Mr. M. A. Long, of the B. & O. Railroad, who will speak on "The Location of Passenger Stations for the Convenient Access and Egress of the Public"; Mr. Albert Kelsey, architect, whose subject will be "Interurban Stations and Trolley Traffic in City Streets"; and Mr. John R. Rockart, architect, who will describe some of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railway Stations. The regular meetings will be held at the New Willard Hotel. On the evening of December 15th a memorial meeting to Charles Follen McKim will be held, the gold medal of honor will be formally awarded, and tributes will be paid by leading statesmen, architects, painters, sculptors, and men of affairs. The convention will conclude with a dinner on the following evening.

TRIBUTE TO SAINT-GAUDENS On the evening of Saturday, November 20th, the National Institute of Arts and Letters will present to Mrs. Saint-Gaudens the gold medal of the Institute, designed by A. A. Weinman, and awarded to the sculpture of Augustus Saint-Gaudens in recognition